

Recovery Act funds fill officer vacancies, prevent department layoffs caused by local budget cuts

Bakersfield, CA – Congressman Jim Costa today announced over \$7,384,635 for the Kern County Sheriff's Department to retain officers or hire new recruits to fill open positions. The grant, made available through the Recovery Act, was released through the US Department of Justice COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) and will fund 27 full-time local officer positions.

"These funds will prevent hardworking police officers from losing their jobs due to local budget cuts," said Costa. "As we work our way out of this recession, we must ensure that local police departments have the tools they need to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe. I am pleased to see more resources invest in our communities, and I will continue to support these efforts."

Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood said the funding will help replace some of the 40 deputies put out of work due to last year's budget process: "A void was created in the budget process a year ago. This funding will help fill those holes."

CHRP grants will provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts.

Police departments receiving the grants will then be required to retain the grant funded positions for a fourth year. The funding provides much needed support to state and local government budgets, and will help the nation's law enforcement agencies add and retain the manpower needed to fight crime more effectively through community policing.